

IBERVILLE PARISH 4-H ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING JANUARY 22, 2007

A meeting of the Iberville Parish 4-H advisory committee was called to order by Mrs. Shirley Rome, Chairperson. After welcoming and thanking everyone for coming, she asked everyone to introduce themselves. Members present were: Mrs. Shirley Rome, Chairperson; Mrs. Laura Bouquet, Secretary; Beau Bouquet, Junior Leader President; Ms. Ivory Lee Williams; Xavier Little; Ms. Kim Jones, 4-H Agent; Mr. Shannon Dietz, 4-H Agent; Christen Diamond; Ms. Brigitte Diamond; Ms. Cheryl Piper; Ms. Tashiba Franklin; Ms. Jeanette Allen; Brea Allen; and Mr. Steve Diamond.

The minutes from the last meeting, August 8, 2006, were reviewed. The only change in the minutes was that Achievement Day is an educational day and a fun day will be held on a different day. Ms. Brigitte Diamond made a motion to accept the minutes. Ms. Cheryl Piper second. The motion passed unanimously.

The next item on the agenda was the Treasurer's Report. It was stated that a savings account was closed and the money was deposited in the general account. A CD matured and the money was also deposited in the general fund. The foundation account has a balance of \$17534.79. The Junior Leader account has a balance of \$2290.00. Mrs. Laura Bouquet made a motion to accept the treasurer's report. Ms. Jeanette Allen second. The motion passed unanimously.

Old Business was reviewed. The participation of activities-4-H Events- is about the same as last year. There has been no significant change. The pumpkin and sewing workshops were new this year. The sewing workshop was held at the 4-H office. The maximum number of participants for it to be held at the 4-H Office is 15. It may be necessary to have two workshops or move to a larger location next year. There were two pumpkin workshops held this year. One was held on this side of the river and one on the other side. This seemed to work out well.

The Winter Extravaganza this year was about the same as last year. There was not a noticeable increase or decrease in participation.

Mr. Shannon Dietz spoke on the livestock program. He stated that there were 30 exhibitors this year. The parish show was held on the 12th and 13th. He was very impressed with the show. The following list is the number of exhibitors and entries in the show.

	Exhibitors	Entries
Lamb	3	7
Swine	5	12
Beef	8	16
Goat	4	5
Poultry	3	6
Rabbits	4	5

The District Show will be held in Lafayette this week, Wednesday, 24th through Saturday, 27th. The State Show will be held at Lamar Dixon in March. After the shows the livestock board will meet and changes will be made. Rabbit, poultry and goats have increased. When raising large livestock, people need a lot of space and space seems to be the issue. Not many people have the space needed to raise large livestock.

In November, the sweet potato sale was held. The potatoes were available for pickup the Tuesday before Thanksgiving. It was a success. We had a profit of \$1291.00. We ordered 6270 pounds of sweet potatoes. This year's crop was good. The following is a list of the sizes sold, the amount sold for and the number of bags sold:

SIZES	AMOUNT SOLD FOR	AMOUNT SOLD
10 #	\$5.00	299
20#	\$10.00	96
40#	\$20.00	34

It was suggested that the sweet potato sale be held a week earlier when school is still in session. Pickup would be easier and sales may increase. If orders increase a different location to bag and store will be needed. The 4-H Office room that was used this year was full. It was also suggested that signs be printed and put around town advertising the sweet potato sale just like the strawberry sale. It was agreed by everyone that this should also increase sales.

The next item discussed was the marketing of the 4-H program. Mr. Jeff Hymel is checking on the printing of the yard signs. He was checking with several vendors. Ms. Kim Jones stated that she will check to see the progress of this. If needed, someone else will be designated to do it. We would like to have the signs for 4-H Week which is held the first week in October. Mr. Jeff Hymel is still checking on business cards for the members. This has not been finalized as of yet.

Christen Diamond suggested that a TV commercial be made promoting 4-H. Also, 4-H members could go on the Channel 9 Morning News, or on Channel 2 – Tune In – where the 4-H members could do a cooking segment. The Junior Leaders could organize and do the commercial. They could go around and film 4-H members at different activities. A segment could be done at Achievement Day.

Members of the marketing committee are: Beau Bouquet, Jr. Leader President; Ms. Brenda Coles; Mr. Jeff Hymel; Ms. Cheryl Piper; Christen Diamond, Ms. Brigitte Diamond; Brea Allen; and Ms. Jeannette Allen.

Other marketing items discussed at the last meeting were hair bows and member on board signs. It was suggested that Railroad Avenue should be decorated during 4-H Week and possibly once or twice a year. A lot of traffic travels down Railroad Avenue and this is a way to promote 4-H where a lot of people would be exposed to the promotion.

Ms. Jeanette Allen and Brea Allen attended Fashion Camp at Camp Grant Walker. Ms. Jeannette Allen stated that we need to get more children involved at the local level. This would increase involvement at other levels. We need to motivate the children about sewing. Sewing is a life skill. It is not taught in school as much as it used to be. All projects in 4-H teach life skills. It was noted that Ms. Tashiba Franklin was on the sewing committee and that Ms. Jeannette Allen be added to the committee.

Ms. Shirley Rome stated that the Marketing and Sewing committees will meet at a later date. Members will be notified of the date and time.

New Business was then discussed. It was stated that the cost to attend 4-H Camp this year went up drastically. The cost last year was \$70.00. The cost this year is \$110.00. We need to come up with ways to help campers attend camp and keep their costs down. We will continue to do the scholarship to help campers. It was suggested that we get businesses to sponsor a child or make a donation of any amount to help a child go to camp. We could call this “Sponsor A Camper” campaign. A commitment card could be placed in the newspaper and the business could fill it out and mail to the 4-H Office. Civic organizations could do the same. A business or organization could sponsor a specific child, if they know of someone, or it could be any child. Mr. Shannon Dietz asked for each person at the meeting to give 5 businesses or people to contact to be a 4-H Camp Sponsor or for a donation to help sponsor a camper. E-Mail the list to the 4-H Office to either Ms. Kim or himself. Iberville Parish will go to 4-H Camp the week of July 9th – 13th. Challenge Camp will be held April 12 – 14th. The fee for challenge camp is \$50.00.

The Katydid candy sale last year went well. We had a profit of \$1183.00. Sweet potatoes made \$1291.00. We are currently selling the World’s Finest Chocolate - Chocolate Covered Almonds for \$2.00 a box. Oranges will be sold this fall if nothing happens. Strawberries will be sold this spring. This is a Junior Leader fundraiser.

It was suggested that we see how the orange and sweet potato fundraiser go before we decide on spring fundraisers. If these are a huge success, we may not need to do a spring fundraiser. This will be decided at our January meeting. Yard signs could be sold in the spring if they are completed and ready for sale. It was noted that schools do get a percentage of profit from the fundraisers they participate in.

Community Service/Learning Ideas were discussed. As a parish we need to come up with a Service Learning Activity for the community to participate in. Service plus educational must total 40 hours of work to qualify towards that service. We must first start with a theme. Some themes suggested were: environment, safety-firework safety in July; home safety; plant safety (with all the plants in the area); gun safety; food safety; water safety; and fire safety. We could get a booth at the Health Fair in March (Riverwest and Georgia Gulf Health Fair). A committee was formed for this. Members are: Mrs. Shirley Rome, Beau Bouquet, Mr. Shannon Dietz, Ms. Brigitte Diamond-Chairperson, Mrs. Laura Bouquet, Ms. Vicki Verrett and Hailey Verrett. The theme for the Service Learning Activity for the parish decided on this year is SAFETY.

The financial status and potential investment opportunities were discussed. The money from the CD and Savings Account that were closed could be invested into something that would have a better return than we had. It was decided to invest money to earn better interest rates. Possible investment agencies are Edward Jones=Peter Gautier; Merrill Lunch=John Sills; and Plaquemine Bank=Janet Camp. Ms. Cheryl Piper made the motion to invest \$5000.00. Mrs. Laura Bouquet second and motion passed unanimously.

The next meeting will be held July 23rd at 5:00 at the 4-H Office. Ms. Jeannette Allen made the motion to adjourn. Mrs. Shirley Rome second and the motion passed unanimously.